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31. (New) The universal adaptive fitting as recited in Claim 29, wherein said second flexible connector end comprises a pliable boot connector.

REMARKS

Claims 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, and 16-18 have been amended, claims 11, 15, 19, and 20 have been canceled, and new claims 21- 31 have been added. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims 1-10, 12-14, 16-18, and 21-31 is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and accompanying remarks.

A marked-up copy of the amended claims is attached hereto in an Appendix, as required by current Office practice.

Applicants very much appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 1-6 are allowed, claim 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, and claims 7-9, 12, and 13 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The claims have been amended to overcome this basis for rejection, and it is thus submitted that claims 1-9 are allowable.

Claims 19 and 20 have been canceled, thereby mooting their rejection as being anticipated by Michaels.

Claim 14 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 15, thereby mooting the rejection of claim 14 as being anticipated by Rowland.

Claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 11. Despite the Examiner's rejection of claim 11 as being anticipated by Esbenshade, Applicants can find no basis for the conclusion that the "adapter 20" of Esbenshade could be reversible, as recited in claim 11. The tube 20 of Esbenshade has an opening only on one end, and thus could not be reversed. Thus, claims 10, 12, and 13 are believed allowable at this time.

Claim 14 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 15. The rejection of claims 14, 15, and 17-19 based upon Nowacki et al. is believed incorrect, since the flap valve 42 cited by the Examiner is not prevented from entering the airway of Nowacki, as recited in claim 14. Rather, the flap valve 42 specifically does enter the airway, as shown in Fig. 1. Thus, claims 14, and 16-18 are allowable.

New claim 21 is similar to claim 1, but recites the generally planar wall segments discussed on page 8 of the specification. None of the prior art references disclose such an

arrangement. New claim 24 recites details of the adaptive fitting 124 disclosed in the application, and is clearly allowable over the prior art. Claim 28 is similar to claim 24, but recites only the adaptive fitting, rather than the combination of an aerosol enhancement device.

In view of the foregoing amendments, an early notification of allowance is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the number below, should any further questions or issues need to be resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX (VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE)

Please amend the claims as follows:

7. (Amended) The aerosol enhancement device as recited in Claim 1, and further comprising an adapter disposed in said [medicated aerosol] inlet port for receiving a medicated aerosol, said adapter comprising a universal fitting which is capable of attaching said spacer member to either a nebulizer or a metered dose inhaler (MDI).

9. (Amended) The aerosol enhancement device as recited in Claim 1, wherein the [medicated aerosol] inlet port for receiving a medicated aerosol and the air inlet port are interchangeable.

10. (Amended) An aerosol enhancement device, comprising:

a mouthpiece;

a spacer member fluidly attached to said mouthpiece via a mouthpiece port, said spacer member having an outer body which defines an interior volume;

an inlet port disposed in said spacer member for receiving a medicated aerosol from an exterior source into said interior volume; and

an adapter associated with said [medicated aerosol] inlet port for receiving a medicated aerosol, said adapter comprising a universal fitting which is capable of attaching said spacer member to either a nebulizer or a metered dose inhaler (MDI);

wherein said adapter is reversible, being disposable in a first orientation for attachment of said spacer member to a nebulizer, and being disposable in a second orientation for attachment of said spacer member to an MDI.

12. (Amended) The aerosol enhancement device as recited in Claim [11] 10, wherein said adapter comprises a first rigid connector end and a second flexible connector end, said first rigid connector end being adapted for attachment to a nebulizer and said second flexible connector end being adapted for attachment to an MDI.

14. (Amended) An aerosol enhancement device, comprising:

a mouthpiece having a first port for fluid communication with a patient's mouth, a second port which is open to atmosphere, and a third port, wherein an airway fluidly communicates with each of said first, second, and third ports;

a medication dispenser attached to said third port; and

a one-way flap valve disposed in said second port, said one-way flap valve including a valve seat for receiving said flap valve and preventing the flap valve from entering said airway, wherein said valve seat comprises a grid structure.

16. (Amended) The aerosol enhancement device as recited in Claim [15] 14, and further comprising a pin for attaching said flap valve to said valve seat at one end thereof.

17. (Amended) The aerosol enhancement device as recited in Claim [15] 14, and further comprising an exhalation filter disposed in said third port.

18. (Amended) The aerosol enhancement device as recited in Claim [15] 14, wherein said flap valve is fabricated of a pliable plastic material.